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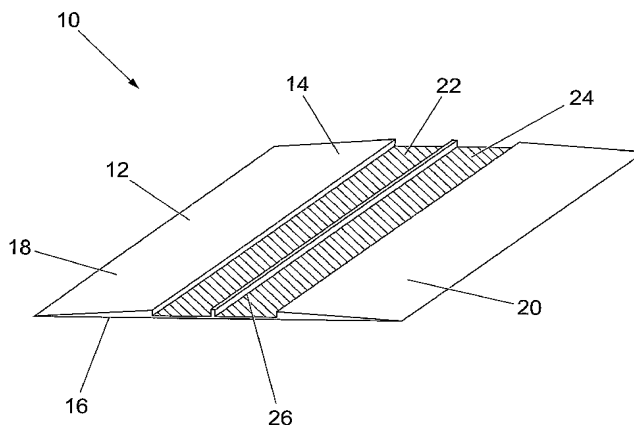
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(54) Title: INSECT AND ARACHNID TRAP



(57) **Abstract:** An insect and arachnid trap (10,100) comprises a substrate (12) having a top surface (14) onto which a sticky substance (24) is deposited. One embodiment of the trap (10) is provided with a reinforcing rib (26) to reinforce the thin sheet substrate. The trap (10, 100) may also have a channel (22, 22') into which the sticky substance (24) is deposited. The top surface (14) may have a smooth finish and be inclined to the horizontal in order to prevent trapped insects and arachnids from extricating themselves from the sticky substance. The sticky substance is a composition which includes polybutene oil and polyisobutylene. The sticky substance preferably includes 5-15 wt % polyisobutylene. This sticky substance in combination with the channel and smooth top surface provides an insect and arachnid trap which is more effective than known examples. The reinforcing rib ensures that the substrate (12) does not fold back upon itself when handled after use. Contact with trapped insects or arachnids is thus avoided.



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Insect and Arachnid Trap

1 The present invention relates to an apparatus for  
2 trapping insects, arachnids and similar arthropods.

3  
4 Traditional arrangements for trapping insects  
5 consist of thin, flexible strips or coils of paper  
6 or plastic coated with a sticky film. They are  
7 normally suspended from ceilings or else adhered to  
8 a window pane. Although such arrangements are  
9 reasonably effective at trapping flying insects,  
10 they are not particularly effective at trapping  
11 arachnids. This is due to arachnids being able to  
12 remove themselves from the sticky film using their  
13 free legs to connect with an adjacent surface and  
14 pull themselves free. A further disadvantage with  
15 the aforementioned arrangements is that although the  
16 sticky films can trap insects, they are not  
17 sufficiently adhesive to successfully trap  
18 arachnids. Many species of arachnid secrete a type  
19 of oil through their feet in order to avoid sticking  
20 to their own webs. As a result, they can also use  
21 these secretions to avoid adhering to the films in

1 traditional insect traps. Furthermore, flypaper  
2 often has the undesirable effect of sticking itself  
3 to people or objects, for example, when stood upon  
4 by a person. Finally, flypapers and similar traps  
5 are conventionally thin sheets of paper or plastic.  
6 As a result, they have very little rigidity and can  
7 fold back on themselves when a used trap is being  
8 disposed of. This can be an unpleasant experience  
9 for someone who has a fear of insects or arachnids,  
10 as they do not wish to come into contact with the  
11 insects or arachnids, even when they have been  
12 successfully trapped.

13

14 It is an object of the present invention to provide  
15 an insect and arachnid trap that obviates or  
16 mitigates one or more of the disadvantages referred  
17 to above.

18

19 According to a first aspect of the present  
20 invention, there is provided an insect and arachnid  
21 trap comprising a substrate having a top surface and  
22 a bottom surface, wherein at least a portion of the  
23 top surface has a sticky substance applied thereto,  
24 and wherein the substrate has at least one  
25 reinforcement rib.

26

27 Preferably, the substrate is formed from a plastics  
28 material and the at least one rib is integrally  
29 formed with the substrate.

30

31 Preferably, the substrate is an elongate sheet  
32 having a longitudinal axis, and wherein the at least

1 one rib runs substantially parallel to the  
2 longitudinal axis.

3

4 Preferably, the substrate further includes a channel  
5 formed in the top surface, and the sticky substance  
6 is located in the channel.

7

8 Preferably, the at least one rib is located in the  
9 channel.

10

11 Preferably, the channel is broader at its base than  
12 at its top. Preferably, the channel has a depth of  
13 between 1.5 and 2mm.

14

15 According to a second aspect of the present  
16 invention, there is provided an insect and arachnid  
17 trap comprising a substrate having a top surface and  
18 a bottom surface, wherein the substrate has at least  
19 one channel formed in the top surface, and wherein  
20 at least a portion of the channel contains a sticky  
21 substance.

22

23 Preferably, the substrate is an elongate sheet  
24 having a longitudinal axis, and wherein the channel  
25 runs substantially parallel to the longitudinal  
26 axis.

27

28 Preferably, the trap further comprises at least one  
29 reinforcing rib located in the channel. Preferably,  
30 the rib is integrally formed with the substrate.

31 Preferably, the reinforcing rib runs parallel with  
32 the channel.

1  
2 Preferably, at least a portion of the top surface of  
3 the substrate inclines upwardly from an edge of the  
4 substrate to the channel. In a preferred  
5 embodiment, the channel substantially bisects the  
6 top surface of the substrate such that the top  
7 surface has first and second top surface portions,  
8 each of the top surface portions inclined upwardly  
9 from an edge of the substrate to the channel.

10  
11 Preferably, the channel is broader at its base than  
12 at its top. Preferably, the channel has a depth of  
13 between 1.5 and 2mm.

14  
15 Preferably, the substrate is substantially  
16 transparent.

17  
18 Preferably, the top surface is provided with a  
19 substantially smooth finish.

20  
21 Preferably, the sticky substance is a composition  
22 including polybutene oil and polyisobutylene. Most  
23 preferably, the sticky substance includes between 5  
24 and 15 wt % polyisobutylene.

25  
26 In a preferred embodiment the sticky substance is  
27 applied to the substrate in strips. Alternatively,  
28 the sticky substance is applied to the substrate in  
29 fluid form.

30

1 Preferably, at least a portion of the bottom surface  
2 is coated with an adhesive adapted to secure the  
3 trap to a surface.

4  
5 Preferably, the trap further comprises mechanical  
6 fixing means adapted to fix the trap to an adjacent  
7 trap. The mechanical fixing means comprises a male  
8 fixing element at a first end of the substrate and a  
9 female fixing element at a second end of the  
10 substrate. The mechanical fixing means is adapted  
11 to permit adjacent traps to be folded on top of one  
12 another.

13  
14 Embodiments of the present invention will now be  
15 described, by way of example only, with reference to  
16 the accompanying drawings, in which:-

17  
18 Fig. 1 is a perspective view of an insect trap  
19 in accordance with the present invention;

20  
21 Fig. 2 is a top view of the insect trap of Fig.  
22 1;

23  
24 Figs. 3(a) and 3(b) show examples of the  
25 applications of the insect trap of Fig. 1;

26  
27 Fig. 4 is a perspective view of a second  
28 embodiment of an insect trap in accordance with the  
29 present invention; and

30  
31 Fig. 5 is a side view of the insect trap of  
32 Fig. 4.

1  
2 Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, an insect trap 10  
3 comprises an elongate substrate, or body portion, 12  
4 having a top surface 14 and a bottom surface 16.  
5  
6 The top surface 14 comprises two top surface  
7 portions 18, 20 which incline upwardly in a lateral  
8 direction from the longitudinal edges of the body  
9 portion 12 towards the centre of the body portion  
10 12. The top surface portions 18,20 are separated  
11 from one another by a channel 22, which runs  
12 longitudinally along the body portion 12. The top  
13 surface portions 18,20 incline in opposing  
14 directions, as can be seen in Fig. 1. The top  
15 surface portions 18, 20 are also provided with a  
16 smooth finish to prevent insects from removing  
17 themselves from the trap 10, as will be explained  
18 below.  
19  
20 The channel 22 is substantially U-shaped in cross-  
21 section and contains a sticky substance 24. By  
22 sticky it is meant that the substance 24 is intended  
23 to have objects, in this case insects and arachnids,  
24 adhere or stick thereto. The sticky substance 24  
25 comprises a mixture of polybutene oil and  
26 polyisobutylene. In a preferred embodiment, the  
27 ideal composition of the sticky substance 24 is 90  
28 wt % polybutene oil and 10 wt % polyisobutylene.  
29 However, tests have shown that the sticky substance  
30 24 is also effective with a composition of 5-15 wt %  
31 polyisobutylene and the remainder polybutene oil.  
32 The polyisobutylene is added to the polybutene oil

1 in order to improve the cohesion, and hence the  
2 sticking properties, of the material. Without the  
3 polyisobutylene, the viscosity of the polybutene oil  
4 could be too great or too small to trap insects and  
5 arachnids. If the polybutene oil is too viscous,  
6 the insect or arachnid can walk across the top of  
7 the sticky substance. If the polybutene oil is not  
8 viscous enough, the insect or arachnid can pull its  
9 legs out of the material, and the material will also  
10 run if the trap is fixed to a non-horizontal  
11 surface. By adding the polyisobutylene to the  
12 material, an ideal viscosity for the material can be  
13 achieved. Further ingredients, e.g. wax, may be  
14 added to the composition depending on the  
15 requirements of the application.

16

17 The channel 22 substantially bisects the top surface  
18 14. It also may have a reinforcement rib, or  
19 support, 26 which is positioned in the centre of the  
20 channel portion 22 and which runs parallel to the  
21 channel 22. The support 26 prevents any larger  
22 unwanted objects coming into contact with the sticky  
23 substance 24, for example if a person inadvertently  
24 stands on the insect trap 10. The support 26 also  
25 provides rigidity to the trap 10 for when the trap  
26 is being handled, either before or after use.

27

28 The rib 26 is a thin strip that can be either added  
29 to the channel portion 22 after manufacture or can  
30 be integrally formed with the body portion 12 during  
31 manufacture. The rib 26 is thick enough to allow a  
32 person to stand upon the insect trap 10 and not



1 break the rib 26, and also thin enough to allow a  
2 sufficient area of sticky substance 24 to be applied  
3 to the channel portion 22. The sticky substance 24  
4 may either be applied in the channel 22 in pre-  
5 formed strips or else in the form of a liquid or  
6 paste.

7  
8 The illustrated embodiment has a channel portion 22  
9 which has a depth of between 1.5 and 2 mm. However  
10 it should be appreciated that this depth could be  
11 greater or less than this amount, depending on the  
12 application and the insects/arachnids the trap is  
13 intended to catch.

14  
15 The bottom surface 16 of the trap 10 is  
16 substantially flat, thereby allowing the trap 10 to  
17 be placed flush on a surface. The bottom surface 16  
18 may include an adhesive material or the like, to  
19 allow the insect trap 10 to be removably mounted to  
20 surfaces such as floors or walls, as shown in the  
21 examples of Figs. 3(a) and 3(b). Fig. 3(a) shows a  
22 plurality of traps 10 positioned around the  
23 circumference of a window. Fig. 3(b) shows a pair  
24 of traps 10 positioned in the corner of a room.

25  
26 The preferred material of construction of the insect  
27 trap 10 is a plastics material which can be moulded  
28 into the desired shape. The trap 10 can be moulded  
29 in one piece, including the rib 26. Most  
30 preferably, the trap is manufactured from a  
31 polymeric material, such as polyvinylchloride (PVC)  
32 or the like. The trap 10 is also preferably made

1 from a transparent material, in order to minimise  
2 the visual impact of the trap.

3  
4 A second embodiment of the trap, generally  
5 designated 100, is shown in Figs. 4 and 5. The  
6 features of the trap shared by the first and second  
7 embodiments 10,100 are designated with the same  
8 reference numerals used in respect of Figs. 1 and 2  
9 described above. As with the first embodiment, the  
10 top surface 14 of the trap 100 also comprises two  
11 top surface portions 18,20 which incline upwardly in  
12 a lateral direction from the longitudinal edges of  
13 the body portion 12 towards the centre of the body  
14 portion 12. The top surface portions 18,20 are  
15 separated from one another by a channel 22', which  
16 runs longitudinally along the body portion 12. The  
17 top surface portions 18,20 incline in opposing  
18 directions, as can be seen in Fig. 4, and are  
19 provided with a smooth finish to prevent insects  
20 from removing themselves from the trap 10, as will  
21 be explained below.

22  
23 The channel 22' has a substantially U-shaped  
24 profile, but it is broader at its base than at its  
25 top, as seen best in Fig. 5. The channel 22'  
26 contains an sticky substance 24 which may be laid in  
27 strips or else applied as a liquid or paste. The  
28 channel 22' again substantially bisects the top  
29 surface 14. It also may have a rib (not shown)  
30 which is positioned in the centre of the channel 22'  
31 and which runs parallel thereto.

32

1 The trap 100 has a bottom surface 16 which  
2 corresponds with the bottom of the channel 22'. The  
3 underside of the trap 100 is also provided with  
4 first and second cut-away portions 19, 21. This  
5 allows the insect trap 100 to be manufactured from  
6 less material than the trap 10 and consequently  
7 weighs less. The bottom surface 16 may again be  
8 placed flush on a surface. The bottom surface 16  
9 may include an adhesive material or the like, to  
10 allow the insect trap 100 to be removably mounted to  
11 surfaces such as floors or walls.

12

13 In operation, the insect trap 10,100 is placed in a  
14 position where insects and arachnids are likely to  
15 be found, such as by windows, doors and skirting  
16 boards, for example. With the trap 10,100 in  
17 position, an insect or arachnid crawls or lands on  
18 the sticky substance 24 in the channel 22,22' of the  
19 trap 10,100 and becomes trapped. Combined with the  
20 effectiveness of the sticky substance 24, the depth  
21 of the channel 22 and the smoothed surfaces 18, 20  
22 either side do not allow the insect to get any grip  
23 with any free legs and thus prevents them from  
24 removing themselves from the trap 10,100.

25

26 A third preferred embodiment of the trap comprises a  
27 thin, substantially flat plastic sheet. The third  
28 embodiment differs from the first and second  
29 embodiments in that the trap does not have a channel  
30 member or inclined top surfaces. The sheet is  
31 provided with one or more strengthening ribs which  
32 are preferably integrally formed with the sheet,

1 although they may also be added to the sheet later.  
2 The ribs can run in any direction on the sheet, but  
3 ideally run longitudinally along the sheet in the  
4 same manner as that described in the first  
5 embodiment. The same sticky substance is applied to  
6 a portion of the top surface of the plastic sheet as  
7 is applied in the first and second embodiments. The  
8 sheet is preferably transparent to minimise the  
9 visual impact of the trap.

10

11 Any insects or arachnids walking across or landing  
12 on the sticky substance on the sheet will be trapped  
13 there. The upper surface of the sheet can also be  
14 provided with a smooth finish so that an insect  
15 trapped near the edge of the sticky substance cannot  
16 get purchase to extricate itself. When disposing of  
17 the trap, the strengthening rib(s) ensure that the  
18 thin sheet cannot fold back on itself, as  
19 conventional flypapers can do. This avoids the user  
20 potentially coming into contact with a trapped  
21 insect or arachnid when disposing of the trap.

22

23 The insect trap 10,100 may be replaced and disposed  
24 of periodically once a number of insects have been  
25 trapped. If provided in strips, the sticky  
26 substance 24 may also be replaced separately from  
27 the trap 10,100.

28

29 The insect trap of the present invention is provided  
30 with a novel composition of sticky substance which  
31 ensures that insects and arachnids are trapped  
32 whilst also ensuring that the viscosity of the

1 material is great enough to avoid any running of the  
2 material when the trap is placed on any non-  
3 horizontal surface. The novel composition is also  
4 such that it counteracts any oil secretions from  
5 arachnids in order to ensure that arachnids cannot  
6 extricate themselves from the trap once caught. The  
7 addition of a channel and smooth, inclined sides to  
8 the trap also further improves the effectiveness of  
9 the trap. Providing one or more strengthening ribs  
10 on the trap also ensures that the trap cannot fold  
11 over when being disposed of. As a result, the user  
12 is less likely to come into contact with the trapped  
13 insects or arachnids when disposing of the trap. If  
14 the trap is provided with a channel, the rib(s)  
15 located in the channel can also prevent objects  
16 inadvertently coming into contact with the sticky  
17 substance 24 within the channel 22.

18

19 Although the preferred embodiments of the trap are  
20 described by themselves, the trap may further  
21 comprise attachment means for attaching the trap to  
22 other adjacent traps. An example of such an  
23 attachment means is a male-female clip arrangement  
24 for the traps to be simply clipped together. One  
25 end of each trap has a male clip member, whilst the  
26 opposite end of the trap has a female member to  
27 receive the male clip of an adjacent trap. The  
28 clips can also be adapted to act as a pivot, so that  
29 a trap can be folded over on top of an adjacent  
30 trap with the sticky surfaces of each trap coming  
31 together. In this way, disposal of the used traps

1     and any trapped insects and arachnids can be made  
2     easier for the user.  
3  
4     The trap may also be formed in a manner so as to  
5     allow the traps to fit around corners, possibly by  
6     providing traps having one tapered end or else traps  
7     having an L-shape. Furthermore, the channel does  
8     not need to be in the centre of the trap. Instead,  
9     it could be located adjacent one edge of the body  
10    with the entire top surface inclining upwardly to  
11    the channel from the opposite edge of the body.  
12  
13    Additional ribs may also be provided in the channel,  
14    dependent on the length and width of the channel.  
15    Finally, although the preferred fixing means for the  
16    bottom surface of the trap is an adhesive, the  
17    plastics material from which the body is made can be  
18    of a suitable softness that removable pins, staples  
19    or nails may be used to fix the trap to a surface.  
20  
21    These and other modifications and improvements may  
22    be made without departing from the scope of the  
23    present invention.

**Claims:**

- 1     1. An insect and arachnid trap comprising a  
2     substrate having a top surface and a bottom surface,  
3     wherein at least a portion of the top surface has a  
4     sticky substance applied thereto, and wherein the  
5     substrate has at least one reinforcement rib.  
6
- 7     2. The trap of Claim 1, wherein the substrate is  
8     formed from a plastics material and the at least one  
9     rib is integrally formed with the substrate.  
10
- 11    3. The trap of either preceding claim, wherein the  
12    substrate is an elongate sheet having a longitudinal  
13    axis, and wherein the at least one rib runs  
14    substantially parallel to the longitudinal axis.  
15
- 16    4. The trap of any preceding claim, wherein the  
17    substrate further includes a channel formed in the  
18    top surface, and the sticky substance is located in  
19    the channel.  
20
- 21    5. The trap of Claim 4, wherein the at least one rib  
22    is located in the channel.  
23
- 24    6. The trap of either Claim 4 or Claim 5, wherein  
25    the channel is broader at its base than at its top.  
26
- 27    7. The trap of any of Claims 4 to 6, wherein the  
28    channel has a depth of between 1.5 and 2mm.  
29

- 1     8. An insect and arachnid trap comprising a  
2     substrate having a top surface and a bottom surface,  
3     wherein the substrate has at least one channel  
4     formed in the top surface, and wherein at least a  
5     portion of the channel contains a sticky substance.  
6
- 7     9. The trap of Claim 8, wherein the substrate is an  
8     elongate sheet having a longitudinal axis, and  
9     wherein the channel runs substantially parallel to  
10    the longitudinal axis.  
11
- 12    10. The trap of either Claim 8 or Claim 9, wherein  
13    the trap further comprises at least one reinforcing  
14    rib located in the channel.  
15
- 16    11. The trap of Claim 10, wherein the rib is  
17    integrally formed with the substrate.  
18
- 19    12. The trap of Claim 10 or Claim 11, wherein the  
20    reinforcing rib runs parallel with the channel.  
21
- 22    13. The trap of any of Claims 8 to 12, wherein at  
23    least a portion of the top surface of the substrate  
24    inclines upwardly from an edge of the substrate to  
25    the channel.  
26
- 27    14. The trap of any of Claims 8 to 13, wherein the  
28    channel substantially bisects the top surface of the  
29    substrate such that the top surface has first and  
30    second top surface portions, each of the top surface  
31    portions inclined upwardly from an edge of the  
32    substrate to the channel.



- 1  
2 15. The trap of any of Claims 8 to 14, wherein the  
3 channel is broader at its base than at its top.  
4  
5 16. The trap of any of Claims 8 to 15, wherein the  
6 channel has a depth of between 1.5 and 2mm.  
7  
8 17. The trap of any preceding claim, wherein the  
9 substrate is substantially transparent.  
10  
11 18. The trap of any preceding claim, wherein the top  
12 surface is provided with a substantially smooth  
13 finish.  
14  
15 19. The trap of any preceding claim, wherein the  
16 sticky substance is a composition including  
17 polybutene oil and polyisobutylene.  
18  
19 20. The trap of Claim 19, wherein the sticky  
20 substance includes between 5 and 15 wt %  
21 polyisobutylene.  
22  
23 21. The trap of any preceding claim, wherein the  
24 sticky substance is applied to the substrate in  
25 strips.  
26  
27 22. The trap of any of Claims 1 to 20, wherein the  
28 sticky substance is applied to the substrate in  
29 fluid form.  
30

1 23. The trap of any preceding claim, wherein at  
2 least a portion of the bottom surface is coated with  
3 an adhesive adapted to secure the trap to a surface.

4

5 24. The trap of any preceding claim and further  
6 comprising mechanical fixing means adapted to fix  
7 the trap to an adjacent trap.

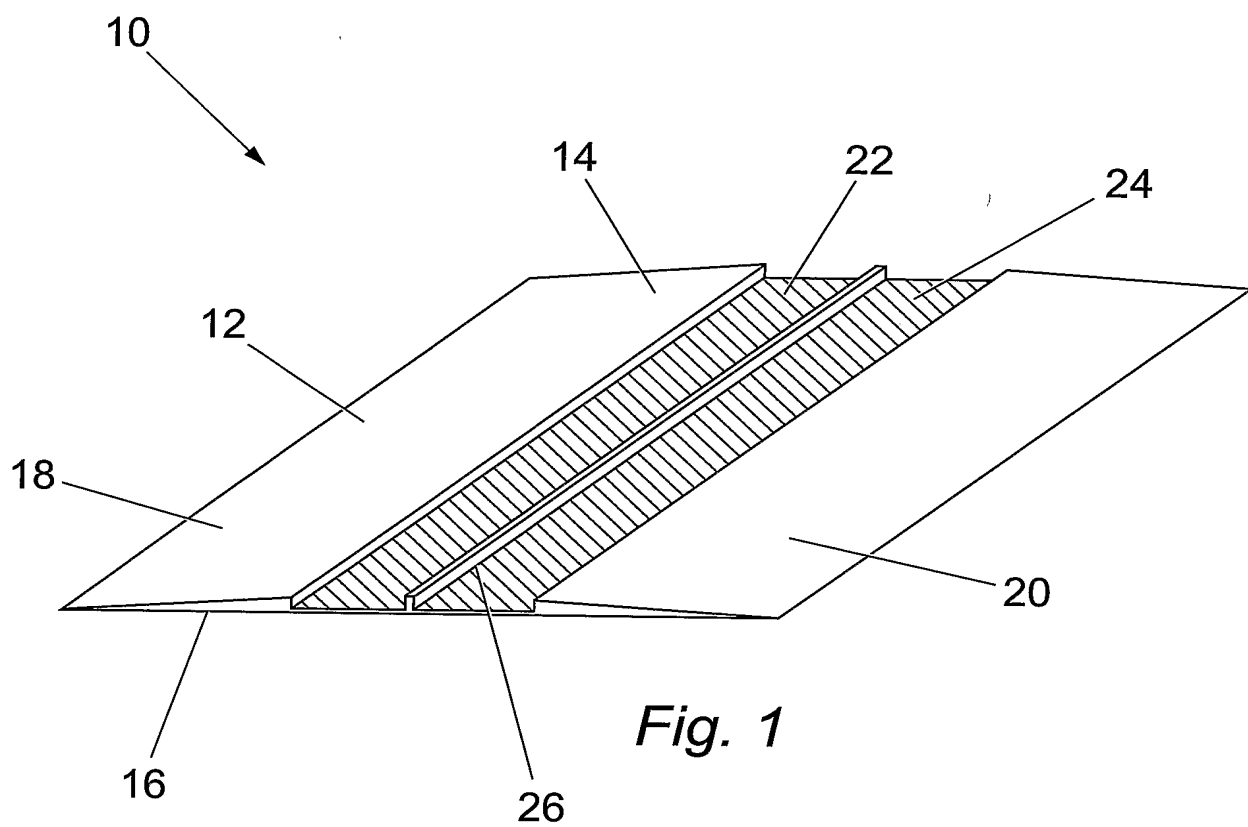
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9 25. The trap of Claim 24, wherein the mechanical  
10 fixing means comprises a male fixing element at a  
11 first end of the substrate and a female fixing  
12 element at a second end of the substrate.

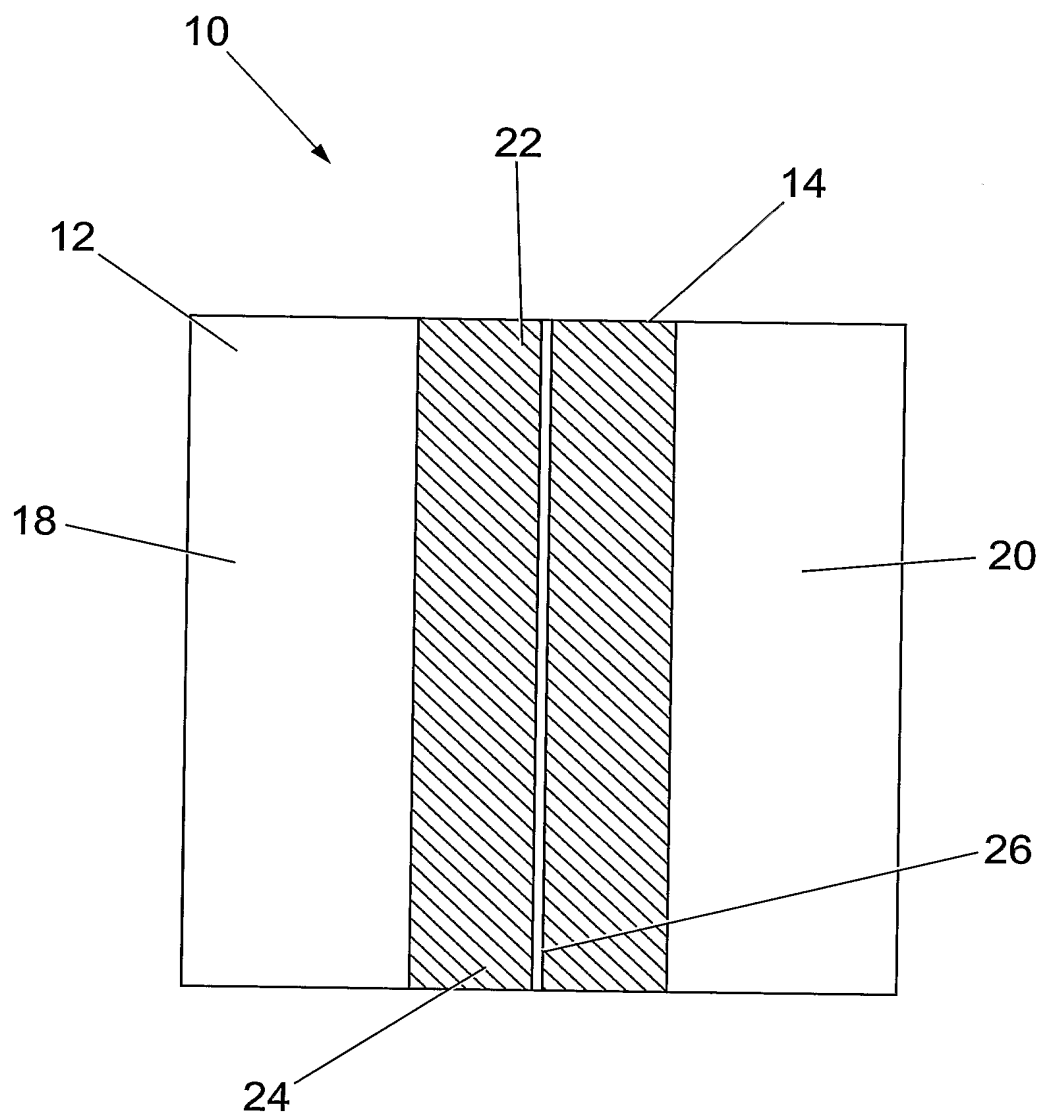
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14 26. The trap of either Claim 24 or Claim 25, wherein  
15 the mechanical fixing means is adapted to permit  
16 adjacent traps to be folded on top of one another.

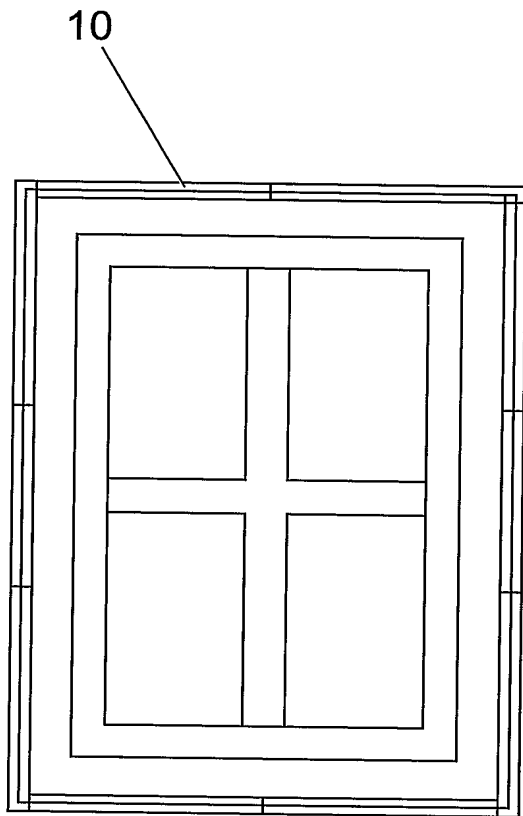
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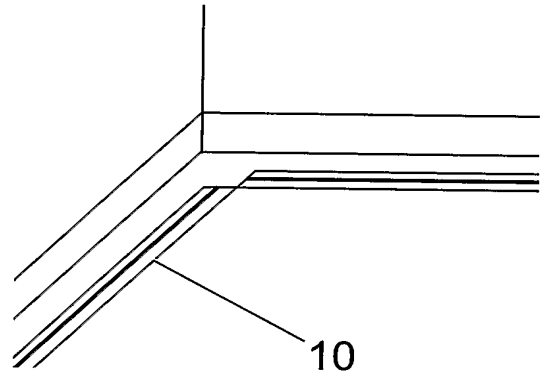
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*Fig. 2*

3 / 5

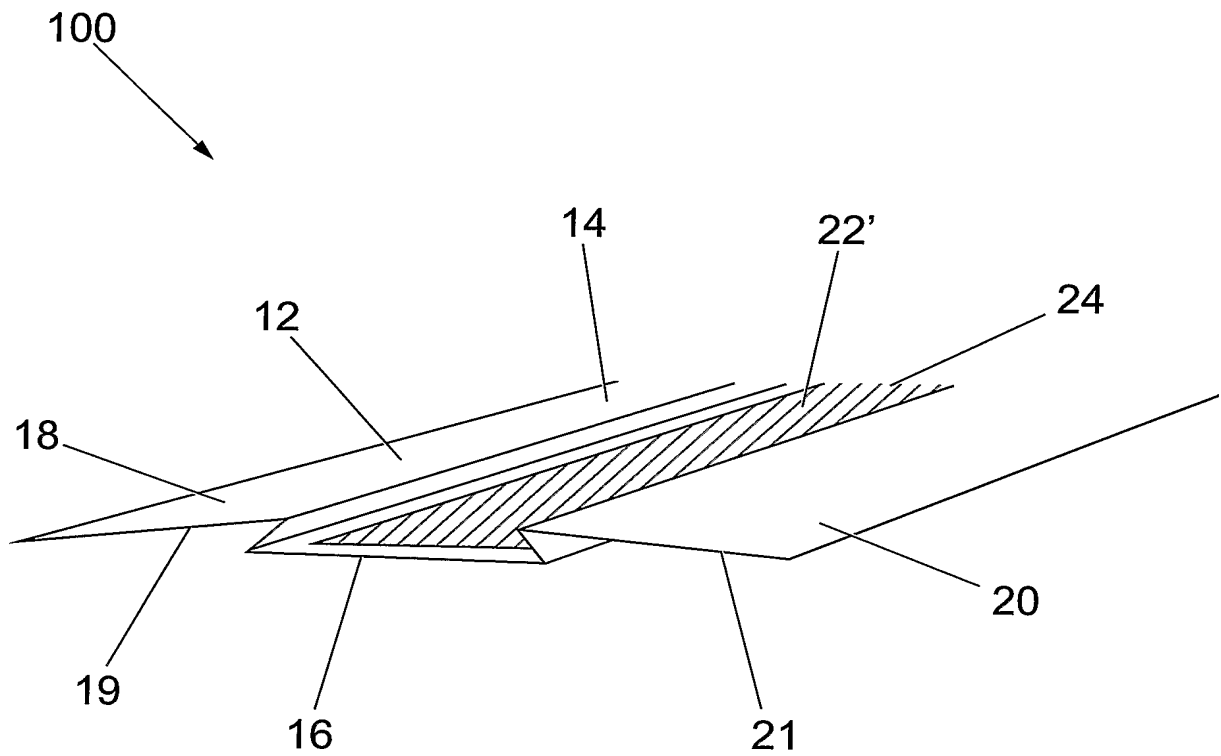


*Fig. 3a*



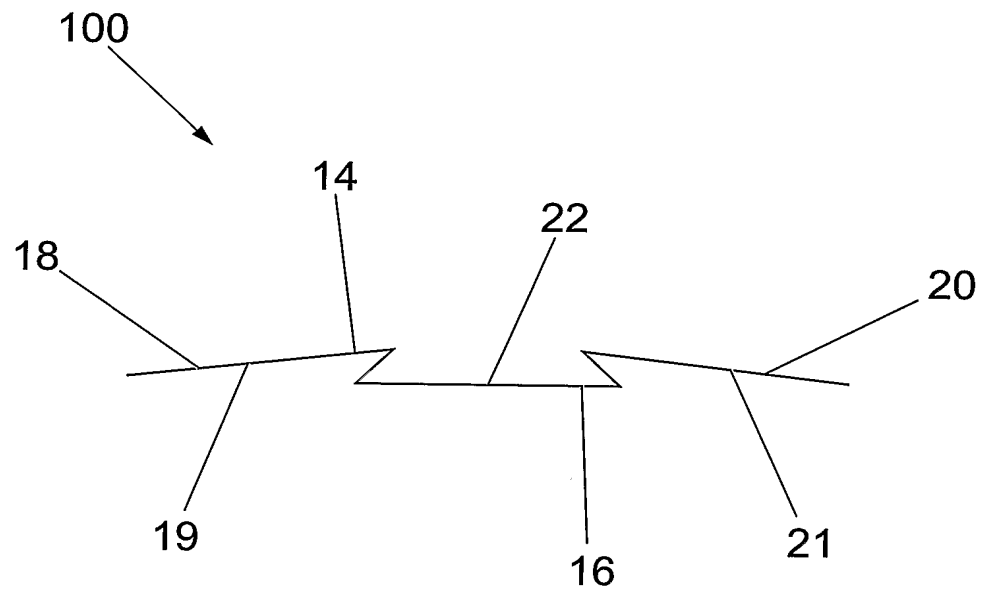
*Fig. 3b*

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*Fig. 4*

5 / 5



*Fig. 5*

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**ABSTRACT:**

CHG DATE=20050122 STATUS=O>An insect and arachnid trap (10, 100) comprises a substrate (12) having a top surface (14) onto which a sticky substance (24) is deposited. One embodiment of the trap (10) is provided with a reinforcing rib (26)



to reinforce the thin sheet substrate. The trap (10, 100) may also have a channel (22, 22') into which the sticky substance (24) is deposited. The top surface (14) may have a smooth finish and be inclined to the horizontal in order to prevent trapped insects and arachnids from extricating themselves from the sticky substance. The reinforcing rib ensures that the substrate (12) does not fold back upon itself when handled after use. Contact with trapped insects or arachnids is thus avoided.